



Mentor-Protégé Program

Office of Small Business Programs



Background

The Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Program was established in 1991 under Section 831 of [Public Law 101-510](#). Mentors are prime contractors who agree to promote and develop small businesses by providing developmental assistance designed to amplify the business success of the protégé. Mentor-Protégé Program is designed to encourage mentor to provide beneficial developmental assistance to all categories of protégé. The program will strengthen subcontracting opportunities for small businesses and enhance contracting goal achievements for Missile Defense Agency (MDA).

Mentor's Eligibility

- ❖ Must have at least one active approved subcontracting plan ([FAR 19.702](#))
- ❖ Must be eligible for the award of Federal contracts
- ❖ Must demonstrate the capability to assist in the development of a protégé
- ❖ May be a graduated 8(a) business
- ❖ May have an active, long-term involvement of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions ([HBCUs/MIs](#)), Procurement Technical Assistance Centers ([PTACs](#)) & Small Business Development Centers ([SBDCs](#)) with a minimum subcontracting goal of 5 percent
- ❖ May have more than one protégé

Protégé's Eligibility

- ❖ May be Small Disadvantaged Businesses
- ❖ May be Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses
- ❖ May be Women-Owned Small Businesses
- ❖ May be HUB Zone Small Businesses
- ❖ May be Qualified Organizations Employing the Severely Disabled Businesses
- ❖ May be Indian-Owned Small Businesses
- ❖ May be Native Hawaiian Organization-Owned Small Businesses
- ❖ Must be eligible for award of Federal contracts
- ❖ May have only one approved mentor

Mentor's Incentives

- ❖ An opportunity to develop long-term relationships with qualified small businesses
- ❖ A government-authorized component added to their subcontracting plans
- ❖ Compensation in the form of direct reimbursement for costs associated with their Mentor-Protégé Agreements

Protégé's Incentives

- ❖ Technology transfer
- ❖ Developing long-term business relationships
- ❖ Marketing, business development & overall business planning assistance
- ❖ Business opportunities with other prime contractors
- ❖ Direct assistance from a successful major prime contractor
- ❖ Teaming opportunities with other protégés to win new contracts and/or subcontracts

For additional information, please visit www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/mentor_protege/